

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-8, 10-13, 15, 17-21, cancel claims 9, 14, and 16, and add claims 22-41 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~of managing subscriber data in a communications network, the method comprising:~~

~~sending-receiving at a routing register a message associated with an inactive subscriber of a communications network and including data relating to the identity of said subscriber;~~

~~selectively routing said message based on the identity of said subscriber and on routing information stored at a said routing register, selectively routing said message from said routing register to one of a first network entity-an inactive subscriber register for storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers-and a second network entity wherein said message is routed to the first network entity when it is determined that the subscriber is inactive and to the second network entity when it is determined that the subscriber is active subsequent to receiving said message at the first network entity,~~

~~provisioning a second network entity with subscriber data required by said second network entity to be able to service said subscriber; and~~

~~updating said routing information associated with the subscriber at the routing register to route subsequent signalling signaling associated with the subscriber to an active subscriber register, which after the receipt of said message at the inactive subscriber~~

register is provisioned with subscriber data required by the active subscriber register to service said subscriber to the second network entity.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
storing a plurality of subscriber identities at the ~~first network entity~~inactive subscriber register; and

provisioning the ~~second network entity~~active subscriber register with subscriber data if the data relating to the identity of the subscriber in the message corresponds to one of said plurality of subscriber identities.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is ~~sent~~received from a mobile station of the ~~said~~inactive subscriber.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the message ~~includes~~comprises an ~~International~~international ~~Mobile~~mobile ~~Subscriber~~subscriber ~~Identity~~identity (IMSI).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the message further ~~includes~~comprises data relating to the location of the mobile station.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

~~sending data~~receiving from the ~~first network entity~~inactive subscriber register data ~~for to the mobile station, to provide~~providing the subscriber with a preliminary service.

7. (Currently Amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said data ~~sent~~received from the ~~first network entity~~inactive subscriber register ~~to the mobile station~~ further comprises authentication information.

8. (Currently Amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said preliminary service comprises ~~transmitting a notification message to the mobile station to~~ ~~notify~~notifying the subscriber that a service request has been acknowledged.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is ~~sent to the register via a second register~~received from a visitor location register.

11. (Currently Amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the register comprises a service routing register.

12. (Currently Amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first ~~inactive subscriber register network entity~~ comprises a provisioning home location register-(pHLR).

13. (Currently Amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second ~~network entity~~ active subscriber register comprises a home location register-(HLR).

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The A-method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second ~~network entity~~ inactive subscriber register also functions as ~~comprises~~ one of: a voicemail system entity; a mail server entity; a multimedia messaging server entity; a wireless application part gateway entity; a prepaid server entity; an intelligent network server; a short message service centre; a location based service centre; a USSD-centre; a GPRS-server; a charging server; and rating server.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~for managing subscriber data in a communications network, the method further~~ comprising:

determining in said active subscriber register that ~~a~~the subscriber has again become inactive ~~in at least one network entity arranged to provide subscriber data for use in servicing the subscriber;~~

~~creating a profile~~ storing subscriber data relating to the subscriber at ~~an auxiliary network entity~~ the inactive subscriber register;

updating the information stored at ~~said~~ routing register to specify said subscriber as inactive such that the routing register routes ~~route~~subsequent signalling associated with the subscriber to the ~~auxiliary (PHLR) network entity~~ inactive subscriber register; and

~~deleting a profile~~ subscriber data relating to the subscriber ~~data from the at least one network entity~~ active subscriber register.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~A~~ method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising determining that said ~~a~~ subscriber has become inactive if the time lapsed since a last message, associated with the subscriber, was routed exceeds a predetermined time.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A communication system for servicing subscribers,~~ comprising:

an active subscriber register;

an inactive subscriber register comprising ~~a first network entity for storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers~~

a storage configured to store subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network,

a receiver configured to receive a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated, and

a processor configured to provision the active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message; and

~~a second network entity for storing subscriber data required for enabling service profiles for subscribers of the communication~~

a routing register comprising

a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network, and

a processor configured to

route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and

update said routing information for at least one of said inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when said at least one of said inactive subscribers becomes active.

~~a register for providing routing information for routing messages associated with subscribers and selectively routing a message based on the subscribers identity and on routing information stored at said register, to one of the first network entity and the~~

~~second network entity wherein said message is routed to the first network entity when it is determined that the subscriber is inactive and to the second network entity when it is determined that the subscriber is active;~~

~~means for provisioning the second network entity with subscriber data associated with a subscriber to be activated and stored at the first network entity based on a message including information relating to the identity of said subscriber, the arrangement being such that the subscriber is activated by provisioning the second network entity with subscriber data from the first network entity and by updating routing information associated with said subscriber at the register to route subsequent signalling associated with said subscriber to the second network entity.~~

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A subscriber data management entity for a communications network, said subscriber data management entity being arranged to~~An apparatus, comprising:

a storage configured to store subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network;~~to~~

a receiver configured to receive a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated; ~~and to~~

a processor configured to provision at least one other entity~~an active subscriber register~~ of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A register for a communications network, said register being arranged to~~An apparatus, comprising:

a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network;~~to~~

a processor configured to

~~route signalling associated with active subscribers to a second network entity and to~~

~~route signalling~~signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register~~a first network entity, and to~~

~~update said routing information for at least one of said plurality of inactive subscribers to route signalling~~signaling to the second network entity~~an active subscriber register~~ when said at least one of said ~~plurality of inactive~~ subscribers becomes active.

22. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium, the computer program configured to control a processor to perform operations comprising:

receiving at a routing register a message associated with an inactive subscriber of a communication network and including data relating to the identity of said subscriber;

based on the identity of said subscriber and on routing information stored at said routing register, selectively routing said message from said routing register to an active subscriber register for storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers, and

updating said routing information associated with the subscriber at the routing register to route subsequent signaling associated with the subscriber to an active subscriber register, which after the receipt of said message at the inactive subscriber register is provisioned with subscriber data required by the active subscriber register to service said subscriber.

23. (New) A method, comprising:

storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network at an inactive subscriber register;

receiving at said inactive subscriber register a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated; and

provisioning an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.

24. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further configured to:

store a plurality of subscriber identities; and

provision said active subscriber register with subscriber data if the data relating to the identity of the subscriber in the message corresponds to one of said plurality of subscriber identities.

25. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the message includes an international mobile subscriber identity.

26. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further configured to send to a control centre data for providing the inactive subscriber with a preliminary service.

27. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26 wherein said data sent to the control centre comprises authentication information.

28. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further configured to also function as one of: a voicemail system entity; a mail server entity; a multimedia messaging server entity; a wireless application part gateway entity; a prepaid server entity; intelligent network server; short message service centre; location based service centre; USSD-centre; GPRS-server; charging and rating server.

29. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein the signalling includes an international mobile subscriber identity.

30. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 20, which is further arranged to receive from the inactive subscriber register data for providing the subscriber with a preliminary service.

31. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein said data received from the inactive subscriber register comprises authentication information.

32. (New) A service routing register, comprising:

a storage configured to store routing information relating to the identity of a plurality of subscribers of a communication network;

a processor configured to

route signaling associated with inactive subscribers to an inactive subscriber register, and

update said routing information for at least one of said inactive subscribers to route signaling to an active subscriber register when said at least one of said inactive subscribers becomes active.

33. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the inactive subscriber register comprises a provisioning home location register.

34. (New) The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the active subscriber register comprises a home location register.
35. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising:
storing a plurality of subscriber identities at the inactive subscriber register; and
provisioning said active subscriber register with subscriber data if the data relating to the identity of the subscriber in the message corresponds to one of said plurality of subscriber identities.
36. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the message includes an international mobile subscriber identity.
37. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, comprising sending from the inactive subscriber register to a control centre data for providing the inactive subscriber with a preliminary service.
38. (New) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said data sent from the inactive subscriber register to the control centre comprises authentication information.
39. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the inactive subscriber register comprises a provisioning home location register.

40. (New) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the inactive subscriber register also functions as one of:

- a voicemail system entity;
- a mail server entity;
- a multimedia messaging server entity;
- a wireless application part gateway entity;
- a prepaid server entity;
- an intelligent network server;
- a short message service centre;
- a location based service centre;
- a USSD-centre;
- a GPRS-server; and
- a charging and rating server.

41. (New) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium, the computer program configured to control a processor to perform operations comprising:

storing subscriber data for inactive subscribers of a communication network at an inactive subscriber register;

receiving at said inactive subscriber register a message identifying an inactive subscriber to be activated; and

provisioning an active subscriber register of the communication network with subscriber data associated with the inactive subscriber to be activated based on the received message.